

Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council

Research & Information Management Working Group

Tuesday August 7, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Greg Beatty (FWS AZ ESO)
Glen Knowles (FWS AZ ESO)
Elisabeth Lawaczeck (ADHS)
Marianne Meding (AGFD)
Brian Moorhead (SRP)
Ed Northam (Cooperative Weed Management)
Alix Rogstad (ASDM)
Shelly Tunis (YFVA)
Kai Umeda (U of A Cooperative Extension)
Bill Werner (ADWR)

Meeting Minutes:

The Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council Research and Information Management Working Group was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on August 7th, 2007 at the Arizona Department of Agriculture conference room 206 located at 1688 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

Work Group Lead Kai Umeda welcomed the attendees and gave an overview of the goals of the Research and Information Management work group. He asked attendees to keep in mind the need to identify important resources needed to address invasive species issues and also to think about the concept for a clearinghouse for invasive species related information that will assist in implementing on the ground efforts, control and management, sharing of data and transfer of knowledge to the public.

Elisabeth Lawaczeck asked at what point it would be appropriate to bring subject matter experts that who can make pointed recommendations regarding the level of research needed to appropriately address specific invasive species issues, for example, invasive mosquito species.

Kai questioned if and how the state implements a process for anticipating the various types of invasive species that may be coming our way. He followed up with two strategies:

1. Identify what species are already present
2. identify what species are not here, but could be on their way

The group discussed how to determine priorities for research. Specific pests should not be prioritized; however the biological implications of the introduction should be assessed. Bill Werner and Marianne Meding indicated that prioritization should occur according to criteria including Human Health Issues, Public Interest, Economic Impacts and Ecological Impacts.

Kai posed the question of who the primary research players are within the State regarding invasive species. The group brainstormed and came up with the following agencies/organizations:

Academic:

- University of Arizona, College of Agriculture
- University of Arizona, College of Medicine
- Taxonomic Disciplines
- Arizona State University
- Northern Arizona University

Federal Agencies:

- USDA
- ARS
- USGS
- USFS – Rocky Mountain Research Station
- National Park Service

State Agencies

- Arizona Game and Fish Department – Research Branch
- State Parks?
- Arizona Department of Agriculture?

Private & NGO

- The Nature Conservancy – primarily monitoring and Restoration
- Sonoran Institute
- Grand Canyon Wildlands Council

The group decided that directives for research needs should be developed. They felt that a group of experts should be assembled for identifying what the research priorities are currently and to identify a process for determining priorities in the future.

The group decided that they needed to discuss different concepts for a Center for Invasive Species (Agenda Item 4). As a starting point, they identified the need to identify players, and create a website that identifies who the players are and how to contact them. Bill Werner recommended reviewing the structure of the Arizona Water Institute as an example of a virtual institute.

Action: Bill Werner will look into the possibility of having someone from the Arizona Water Institute attend the next Research & Information Management Meeting.

The group spent some time brainstorming functions a Center for Invasive Species (Center) should fill:

- Repository for data
- Repository for research actions

- The Center should have persons identified that can coordinate 1) plant and 2) wildlife invasive species issues, and these coordinators should be able to represent AGFD, ADA, ADHS and Commerce
- The Center could function as a conduit for grants, and help facilitate awarding grants
- Should provide outreach and education
- Could house a spatial database and information management system
- At least 1 FTE will need to be dedicated to meet the administrative functions of the Center
- Identify research needs
- Coordinate research needs
- Serve as a mechanism to get Federal funding for invasive species research and monitoring
- Serve as a central location for WMA coordination
- Provide support for local management areas (e.g. pest management)

The group identified 3 funding alternatives for a Center for Invasive Species:

1. line item budget (Governor)
2. Funded and administered by 1 Agency
3. Multiple Entities provide funding

The group decided to identify potential alternative models for a Center for Invasive Species, the following three alternatives were put forward:

Long Term Goal (Alternative 1)

- Three FTE coordinators would be required to address the following three areas:
 1. Education and Outreach (1 FTE)
 2. Database and Mapping (1 FTE)
 3. Research (1 FTE)

Short Term Goal (Alternative 2)

- One program manager/coordinator to oversee the three areas identified in alternative 1
- The coordinator would be tasked with being a liaison and be informed on incoming, current and historical threats, and have the ability to review, categorize and prioritize invasive species issues

Dynamic Model (Alternative 3)

- Identify major threats and issues and then accordingly fund positions dedicated to these issues as they arise
- This model would need to be dynamic, allowing focus of funded positions to change as needed as threats/issues arise

Funding Opportunities

The group then spent time brainstorming potential funding/granting opportunities for research, and came up with the following list:

- Towns/local governments (may include developer fees) may be willing to provide funding for public related issues → such entities may be willing to provide funding for specific threats/issues
- User fees / tax on products & commodities
- Fire impact funding may be available
- ANS management plan – once approved and submitted, AZ may be able to receive federal funding
- Industry e.g. herbicide companies
- Utility companies
- Irrigation districts
- Match funding
- HOA's
- General appropriation
- AZ lottery dollars

Future agenda items were identified:

- Further develop specific roles of FTE's identified in the 3 alternative models for a Center for Invasive Species
- Identify and outline specific scenarios
- Create a template that outlines research needs and identify the criteria that can be used to identify and prioritize research needs in the future

Future Research and Information Management work group meeting dates were set for August 27th, 10:00 am to noon on August 27th, 2007 at the Arizona Department of Agriculture conference room 206 located at 1688 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

A second meeting was scheduled for September 6th, 10:00 am to noon at the State Land Department Conference Room 215 located at 1616 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.